

SECRET

COPY No. 13



REPORT

of

**No. 1 CANADIAN WAR CRIMES
INVESTIGATION UNIT**

re

**SHOOTING OF CANADIAN
PRISONERS OF WAR**

by

THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES

at

**HAUT du BOSQ
NORMANDY, FRANCE**

11 JUNE, 1944

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Abbreviations and Comparative Ranks.

NOTE: For the purpose of this report arbitrary abbreviations have been adopted for reference to SS ranks, as shown below with corresponding British Army rank.

	Gruppenführer	-	Lieut. General
	Brigadeführer	-	Major General
	Oberführer	-	Senior Colonel) Briga-
	Standartenführer	-	Colonel)dier
OSBF	Obersturmbannführer	-	Lt. Col.
SBF	Sturmabführer	-	Major
HSF	Hauptsturmführer	-	Capt
OSF	Obersturmführer	-	Lieut.
USF	Untersturmführer	-	2/Lt.
H SchF	Hauptscharführer	-	WO I.
S SchF	Sturmscharführer	-	Staff Sjt-Major
O SchF	Oberscharführer	-	C.S.M.
Sta SchF	Stabscharführer	-	Staff Sjt.
SchF	Scharführer	-	Sjt.
U SchF	Unterscharführer	-	Cpl.
O'Fahnrich	Oberfahnrich	-	Officer Candidate
(Fahnrich)			
RF	Rottenführer	-	Sr. L/Cpl
SM	Sturmmann	-	Jr. L/Cpl
Mann	Mann	-	Private
Soldat	Soldat	-	Private
Schütz	Schütze	-	Rifleman
Gren	Grenadier	-	Grenadier

PART I

I N D E X

PART II

STATEMENT

OF

FACTS

HAUT du BOSQ CASE

FACTS

1. About 1600 hours on 11 June 1944 three Canadian prisoners of war since identified as:

B.142277 Spr IONEL J RCE

B.25464 Spr BENNER GA RCE

L.105551 Rfn OWENS AR Royal Winnipeg
Rifles

were brought to the Headquarters of 26 SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment, 12 SS Panzer Division (Hitler-Jugend), then situated in an orchard at Ferme du Bosq Map Reference 904662 (Cheux Sheet 37/16 SE 1:25,000).

2. They were turned over to two members of the Feldgendarmerie -- a Hauptscharführer or Oberscharführer and an SS Sturmmann -- attached to the Regimental Headquarters.

3. They were taken to the entrance of the Regimental Headquarters where they waited a few minutes. They were then interrogated by the Regimental Commander, Obersturmbannführer Wilhelm MOHNKE, through an interpreter in the presence of the Adjutant, Hauptsturmführer KAISER. The interrogation lasted from 15 - 20 minutes, after which the prisoners were searched and stripped of all personal possessions, including their identity discs, in the presence of these officers. During the interrogation Obersturmbannführer MOHNKE was shouting and gesticulating and appeared to be very angry.

4. From the Regimental Headquarters they were then marched, by the two members of the Feldgendarmerie, in the direction of the Allied lines to a very large bomb crater in a meadow about 300 metres away from the Headquarters which had been made a few hours earlier. To reach this bomb crater they followed a line of hedges.

5. When the prisoners were abreast of the bomb crater the non-commissioned officer of the Feldgendarmerie opened fire on them from behind and at very close range with his machine pistol. He fired about twenty to twenty-five rounds in a long burst and all the prisoners fell to the ground, and no further movement by them was observed. Further single shots were fired either by the non-commissioned officer or the Sturmmann or both and then they both ran back towards the Regimental Headquarters. The prisoners had made no attempt to escape at any time.

6. The officers of the Regimental Headquarters, including Obersturmbannführer MOHNKE, stood in front of the Headquarters and saw the prisoners being marched from the Headquarters to the bomb crater and watched them being shot by the Feldgendarmerie. Neither MOHNKE, nor any other officer, took any action whatever to intervene.

- (d) The dental charts taken by the Dental Officer of the Identification Team make identification of body 2GC/UNK/353 as B.25464 Spr BENNER, G.A. almost positive and it is corroboration in the case of 2GC/UNK/351 as L.105551 Rfn OWENS, A.R. There was no dental evidence in the case of 2GC/UNK/352.

19. All of these soldiers were listed as "MISSING" on 7 June 1944 by their units and were later recorded as "MISSING, PRESUMED KILLED".

20. Final identification of these bodies was recorded by Records, Canadian Military Headquarters, Acton, as follows:

2GC/UNK/351 - L.105551 Rfn OWENS, A.R.

2GC/UNK/352 - B142277 Spr IONEL, J.

2GC/UNK/353 - B25464 Spr BENNER, G.A.

Exhibits 15, 16, 17, 18.

PART III

REPORT

OF

INVESTIGATORS

PART IV

R-E-C-O-R-D-S

OF

E-V-I-D-E-N-C-E

(Exhibits: 1 - 18)

LIST OF EXHIBITS

(In order of appearance in this volume)

1. Map CHEUX Sheet 37/16 SE 1:25,000 (Exhibit A to the evidence of Capt. I. T. BURR).
2. Map enlargement (Exhibit B to the evidence of Capt I. T. BURR).
3. Identity disc of Spr IONEL, J. (Exhibit A to the evidence of Lt. Roger CLOUTIER - not included).
4. Photographs referred to in STANGENBERG's evidence as listed below:-

Exhibit "C" - Ferme du Bosq.

- " "D" - Entrance to Regt HQ from EAST.
- " "E" - Entrance to Regt HQ from EAST, (farther away).
- " "F" - Interior of Regt HQ.
- " "G" - View showing where STANGENBERG watched interrogation.
- " "H" - View showing where STANGENBERG watched search.
- " "I" - Meadow in front of Regt HQ, showing gap through which prisoners marched to bomb crater.
- " "J" - View showing where STANGENBERG watched shooting.
- " "K" - View showing place where Regt officers watched shooting.
- " "L" - Bomb crater where bodies found.
- " "M" - Third Regt HQ Command Post.
- " "N" - Officers' Mess at third Regt HQ.
- " "O" - Signal centre at third Regt HQ.
- " "P" - Site where Regt Commander's car parked.

EXHIBIT NO. 2EXHIBIT No. 14B

SECRET

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCEAG 000.5-2 GAP-AGM APO 757 (Main)
9 October 1944

SUBJECT: Prisoner of War STANGENBERG, WITHOLD

TO: Commanding General, European Theater
of Operations, U.S. Army

1. Reference is made to letter this headquarters, file AG 000.5-2 GAP-AGM, dated 20 August 1944, appointing a Supreme Headquarters, AEF, Court of Inquiry for the purpose of investigation and report in cases of alleged breach of Geneva Conventions of 1929 by the German Armed Forces.

2. Reference is also made to PWIS(H)/LF/275, dated 10 July 1944, a report by SIO Lingfield Cage on the interrogation of Prisoner of War KP22243 Panzer Grenadier STANGENBERG, WITHOLD, Regt. Hq. Co., SS Panzer Grenadier Regiment 26, 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitler Jugend) captured near CAEN, Calvados, Normandy 23 June 1944.

3. Paragraph 16 of the report mentioned in paragraph 2 above is as follows:

"Two Cpls (Uffz) of the Feldgendarmarie brought three ENGLISH or CANADIAN PW to Battle HQ - Gefechtsstand - (X roads 907710 - sheet 7F/1 (CAEN) -) of Pz Gren Regt 26 for interrogation. Two of them were between 20 and 25 years of age and one was between 25 and 30. The Regt Comd Standartenfuehrer MOHNKE conducted the interrogation in the presence of Hauptsturmfuehrer KAISER (adj and Coy Comd HQ Coy) and other SS officers when PW did not know. PW watched proceedings from a distance of about 80-100 yards. The interrogation lasted about 15-20 minutes. During that time MOHNKE shouted and gesticulated all the time. When the BRITISH PW were searched and everything, including their identity discs, was taken from them. Then the two Cpls of the 'Feldgendarmarie' took them about 500-600 yards away towards the British lines to a meadow 90571 (sheet 7F/1 - CAEN) where one of the Corporals shot them in the back with his MP. MOHNKE and KAISER were watching the shooting. The corporal emptied a whole magazine into the three British PW and then both Cpls ran back to MOHNKE. The bodies were not buried and the Regt retreated the following day."

EXHIBIT No. 14B

4. A copy of the more detailed report referred to is attached.

5. It is desired that STANGENBERG be examined on oath concerning the incident referred to and that a verbatim report of the proceedings and examination, signed by the prisoner of war, be forwarded to the Supreme Headquarters, AEF Court of Inquiry as soon as possible.

6. Without limiting in any way the discretion of the interrogating officer, it is particularly desired that the prisoner of war be closely questioned regarding the following matters:

a. Names of the unit and station of the 2 Feldgendarmerie who brought the three English or Canadian Prisoners of War to his battle headquarters.

b. The rank and unit marks, if any, of the 3 Prisoners of War.

c. Whether any of the 3 Prisoners of War were already wounded when brought in, and if so, how.

d. How long Battle headquarters had been established at the location given.

e. The previous location of regimental headquarters.

f. The location of divisional headquarters at the time and any earlier location, if moved.

g. The time of day when the three Prisoners of War were interrogated.

h. The direction from which they were brought in.

i. By what unit they were taken prisoner before being handed over to the Feldgendarmerie.

j. Where they were taken prisoner and at what time.

k. What fighting was going on in the vicinity at or immediately prior to the time the 3 Prisoners of War were brought in, and the precise direction of the fighting.

l. Whether witness was able to hear any of the questions by MOHNKE or others to the 3 Prisoners of War. If so, what these questions were and any answers heard.

m. Whether the interrogation was in German or English.

EXHIBIT No. 14CTRANSLATIONRECORD OF EVIDENCE

THAT has been given by WITHOLD STANGENBERG, a Prisoner of War, concerning the shooting of British Prisoners of War by German troops in France on 14 June 1944:-

1. I, SS Panzergrenadier Withold STANGENBERG, until I was captured on the 28th June 1944, was in HQ Coy of 26 SS Panzergrenadier Regiment, belonging to the 12th SS Panzer Division (Hitler Youth).
2. On the 14th June 1944, about half-past four in the afternoon, I was in the neighbourhood of the battle HQ of my regiment, 26 SS Panzergrenadier Regt, when a soldier from battle HQ came up to me and told me that three English or Canadian prisoners had been brought in. Thereupon I went to battle HQ - X roads 907710 G.S.G.S. 4250 Sheet 7F/1 Caen, where the three prisoners were being interrogated by the Regt Commander, Col. MOHNKE, in the presence of the Adjutant, Captain KAISER. There were also several other officers present, but I did not know them.
3. It was a sunny day, with good visibility and the time of the interrogation was about 4.30 p.m.
4. As the prisoners were already at battle HQ, I could not ascertain, from what direction they had come. I was too far away to be sure what badges of rank and unit signs the prisoners were wearing. Also, I do not know, who took them prisoners and where they were captured. Neither of the prisoners was wounded.
5. Behind the prisoners stood two members of the Feldgendarmerie (Field Police), who were unknown to me. I believe, however, that they both belonged to a section of the Feldgendarmerie, which was permanently attached to 26 Panzergrenadier Regiment.
6. The Battle HQ of the regiment had been in the place mentioned by me above in Para 2, since approx 10 p.m. on 11 June 1944 I don't remember the exact spot, where the regt. battle HQ was before this date.

EXHIBIT No. 14c

7. I had never been to the divisional battle HQ, but I heard the orders, which were issued to a D.R. who was to drive to the Div Battle HQ. The Div Battle HQ, on 14 June 44, was about 18 Km. south-east of the regt battle HQ.
8. Behind me stood four more of my colleagues, who also wished to be present at the interrogation. Their names were:
 - STUTUFF, Erich, Panzergrenadier,
Pl HQ No. 1 Platoon, HQ Coy
 - SCHULTZ, Helmut, Panzergrenadier,
No. 1 Section, No. 1
Platoon, HQ Coy
 - ROESNER, Helmut, Panzergrenadier,
Pl. HQ, No. 1 Platoon,
HQ Coy.
 - SCHITZICK, Herbert, Unterschar-
fuhrer, Pl HQ, No 1
Platoon, HQ Coy

all from 26 SS Panzergrenadier Div.
9. When the officers saw us, they sent us away. However, we hid and watched the proceedings from a distance of about 100 yards.
10. The interrogation lasted about 15 - 20 minutes, and MOHNKE shouted and gesticulated the whole time. We were too far away to understand the exact words uttered by MOHNKE or the prisoners. Likewise we could not ascertain, whether the interrogation was conducted in English or in German. On the conclusion of the interrogation, the two members of the Feldgendarmerie led the prisoners about 30 yards away from the battle HQ, and searched them thoroughly. They took everything from them, including the identity discs, which the prisoners wore round their necks. The Field Police threw all papers and other objects which they had taken from the prisoners, into the nearby bushes. I believe that the identity discs were also there. No weapons of any description were found on the prisoners.
11. The prisoners were led away about 200 - 300 yards by the two members of the Field Police, in the direction of the English front line. The prisoners did not offer any resistance and made no attempt to escape. The Field Police allowed the prisoners to march in front of them; during the march the prisoners had not raised their hands.

EXHIBIT NO 4No 1 CANADIAN WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION UNIT

RECORD OF THE EVIDENCE

OF

Withhold STANGENBERG

(POW 185761 Fz Grenadier)

INVESTIGATING TEAM

Investigator - Examiner:

Major C S Campbell, IDE,
Canadian Infantry Corps, C.A.

Investigator - Cross-Examiner:

Lt-Col. J W Walker,
General List, C.A.

Interpreter:

Captain I.T. Burr,
Canadian Intelligence Corps, C.A.

Court Reporter:

M31357 Sgt McDonald, W.S.
Corps of Military Staff Clerks, C.A.

The Investigating Team assembled at London District P.W. Cage, Kensington Palace Gardens, London, England, at 1430 hours on the 28th day of June 1945, for the purpose of taking on oath the evidence of POW No. 185761, Fz Grenadier STANGENBERG, Withhold.

The Interpreter and Court Reporter were reminded of their former oaths.

The witness, having been duly sworn, was examined by Major C.S. Campbell as follows:

Q1 What is your name?

A1 STANGENBERG, Withhold.

Q2 How do you spell it?

A2 STANGENBERG.

Q3 What is your christian name?

A3 WITHOLD.

Q4 What is your rank?

A4 Obergrenadier.

Q5 What is your personal number?

A5 I have forgotten.

Q6 What was your field post number?

- A6 58077.
- Q7 How old are you?
- A7 19.
- Q8 Where were you born?
- A8 Born in POLAND.
- Q9 Whereabouts?
- A9 GERDEIN.
- Q10 What is the nearest big city?
- A10 TIERSCHAU.
- Q11 Where did you live before you were called up into the army?
- A11 In HERSCHENFELD.
- Q12 What is your father's name?
- A12 Anton STANGENBERG.
- Q13 What is your mother's maiden name?
- A13 Klara WELSANDT.
- Q14 Have you any brothers or sisters?
- A14 Two brothers, one sister.
- Q15 Are they older or younger than you are?
- A15 Older.
- Q16 What are the brothers' names?
- A16 The oldest is ALBAN.
- Q17 How old?
- A17 28.
- Q18 The second?
- A18 HYBERT.
- Q19 What is his age?
- A19 About 24.
- Q20 Your sister's name?
- A20 HEDWIG.
- Q21 What is her age?
- A21 About 22.

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- A50 I don't know exactly.
- Q51 When did you arrive there?
- A51 On 8 June 1944.
- Q52 What did you do in the HQ Coy?
- A52 I was in the motorcycle pl of the HQ Coy.
- Q53 What were your duties?
- A53 I was a motorcycle driver.
- Q54 Did you ride your motorcycle yourself and carry messages or did you act as chauffeur for someone else?
- A54 My duties were as a driver within the section and not as a despatch driver.
- Q55 Was your section a fighting or transport section?
- A55 The task of our platoon and my section was to act as reconnaissance for HQ.
- Q56 Who was your Coy Commander?
- A56 I have forgotten; he was a first lieutenant.
- A57 Do you know an officer by the name of KAISER?
- A57 Yes, of course, he was the first lieutenant.
- Q58 Are you sure about his rank?
- A58 Yes, I believe he was a first lieutenant (Obersturmführer).
- Q59 Do you know the names of any other officers who were at the HQ of the Regt?
- A59 At my capture I knew all the names, but since then I have forgotten, but I can remember the Regt Commander who was STANDARTENFUHRER. His name was MOHNKE.
- Q60 Do you remember the names of any of the other officers or NCOs?
- A60 Unterscharführer OTTO MUELLER.
- Q61 Was he the Cpl of your section?
- A61 Yes, he was our section commander.
- Q62 Any others?
- A62 Unterscharführer ERHARDT MUELLER.
- Q63 What did he do?

- A63 He was also a section commander in my platoon.
- Q64 Any others?
- A64 Unterscharführer SCHITZICK.
- Q65 What did he do?
- A65 He was commander of Pl. HQ. Our Pl Commander was Oberscharführer GENZ, he was our platoon commander.
- Q66 Do you know any Sergeants?
- A66 I have forgotten all the others; I gave them when I was first captured.
- Q67 Do you remember any other officers who were around the HQ of 26 Pz Gr Regt?
- A67 I knew of quite many at the time I was taken prisoner, but unfortunately I cannot remember them now.
- Q68 When was your platoon first engaged in any fighting?
- A68 26 June 1944.
- Q69 Where had you been from 8 June until 26 June?
- A69 We went forward and then were recalled on three occasions.
- Q70 Are you speaking now of your Pl or Regt?
- A70 I mean the entire Regt.
- Q71 Do you know the area you were in during that period?
- A71 I cannot remember because I have no map.
- Q72 Would you recognize the area if you saw it?
- A72 Yes, I am sure I could.
- Q73 Did the HQ move often during that period?
- A73 Yes, as I told you, we changed position three times.
- Q74 During that time did you see any British or Canadian Troops?
- A74 Yes.
- Q75 How did you come to see them if you were not in battle?
- A75 Those had been brought in as prisoners.

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A97 At that time it was in the country, by a cross-road that is marked on a map, in the neighbourhood of a village, but in open country.

Q98 Was it in an orchard?

A98 Where the HQ was, was in the orchard, but where the shooting took place it was in the open meadow that had been marked with bomb craters.

Q99 How far were you from the place that the interrogation took place?

A99 My estimate of the distance is from 80 to 100 metres.

Q100 Could you see quite clearly to the place where the interrogation was taking place?

A100 Yes, I could see very clearly.

Q101 What direction were the prisoners brought from?

A101 I don't know exactly how the front ran but my opinion is that they came from the front.

Q102 Did they come across the road or across the field?

A102 I didn't see them come. I first saw them at Regt HQ.

Q103 Now, you told me a moment ago, that the Regt HQ was near a cross-road, what kind of roads were they?

A103 These were usual country roads of dirt.

Q104 Were either of the roads paved or cobble stones?

A104 They were gravel roads.

Q105 How far away was the village?

A105 About 2 Kilometres, I mean now the village that was to our right as I looked at the front, not the village that lay behind.

Q106 How far away was the village that lay behind you?

A106 That was 500 metres.

Q107 Were there any buildings right near the Regt HQ?

A107 HQ at that time were in vehicles and there were no buildings.

Q108 Were there any woods or large clumps of trees or copse nearby?

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- A108 There was in the neighbourhood a row of trees.
- Q109 All along the road?
- A109 Not directly on the street, but 30 or 40 metres from the road.
- Q110 Was there any water nearby?
- A110 Yes there was, we were near a spring.
- Q111 Was there any surface water?
- A111 Yes, there was surface water, but how large I cannot say.
- Q112 Are you sure you would recognize the place if you had a chance to see it again?
- A112 Yes, I am certain. We were there two days and I can remember it.
- Q113 Was all of your platoon at the HQ when these three prisoners were brought in?
- A113 No, there were only single persons at HQ from the platoon, myself and three others that I know of.
- Q114 Were you in slit trenches or fox holes?
- A114 At this time we were in open meadow. There were slit trenches nearby but we were not in them.
- Q115 Who were the other people that you can remember were there?
- A115 Unterscharführer SCHITZICK was also there, then Pz Grenadier Helmut ROESNER.
- Q116 Who else?
- A116 Pz Grenadier Erich STUTOFF.
- Q117 Anyone else?
- A117 Obergrenadier Helmut SCHULTZ, that was all.
- Q118 Do you know if the prisoners were British, Canadian or Polish or what?
- A118 I cannot say because I didn't see them close enough.
- Q119 How were they dressed?
- A119 Green uniform like you are wearing. (Examining officer was wearing standard battle dress with trousers and blouse).
- Q120 Did they have anything on their heads?
- A120 I believe that they had nothing on their heads.

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Q144 When the prisoners were being taken into the meadow, did they march or run or what?

A144 They walked in the usual manner.

Q145 Did they have their hands up?

A145 With their hands down.

Q146 Did you watch them all the time, from the time they left the HQ till the time they were shot?

A146 Yes, indeed, from the time that they left the interrogation until the time that they were shot.

Q147 Did you see any sign of an attempt to escape?

A147 No, they tried nothing.

Q148 How far behind the prisoners were the guards?

A148 I cannot say exactly, about three metres.

Q149 Did they walk directly from the place where interrogation took place or did they go through a fence or gate?

A149 I don't know that now.

Q150 What did the other persons who were taking part in the interrogation do when it was finished.

A150 The entire time they watched.

Q151 Do you know if the Regimental Commander stayed and watched?

A151 Yes, he was also there.

Q152 And all the other officers as well as the Commander?

A152 Yes.

Q153 You told us a moment ago that the guards ran back, where did they run to?

A153 Back to Regt HQ where the staff was.

Q154 Did they report to any officer?

A154 I didn't see anything more and I didn't see this that you ask.

Q155 Do you know any reason why they should run back from the place the shooting took place?

A155 No, I don't know of any reason.

- Q156 You say that after the shooting took place you went back to your slit trenches?
- A156 Yes.
- Q157 Why did you go into slit trenches then?
- A157 Because it was all over and because the section had to keep together in trenches and we had stood up about long enough.
- Q158 Was there any enemy firing, Artillery or Mortar following the shooting?
- A158 After this, enemy fighters attacked us from the air.
- Q159 Did you discuss this in the section after you went into the slit trenches?
- A159 I personally did not, but the others said that it was not a good thing that prisoners should be shot because if one of our own comrades were taken prisoner he would be shot.
- Q160 Did you all agree to that?
- A160 Some said it was a bad thing, but one of them said that it was a good thing that prisoners should be shot.
- Q161 Did any of your officers or NCOs discuss the question of shooting prisoners before this time?
- A161 No, nobody said anything to us on this point, but the section commander told us that the English shot all the prisoners that they took.
- Q162 Which section commander was this?
- A162 That was OTTO MEULLER.
- Q163 Was this subject of shooting prisoners discussed often among you?
- A163 Not after that, there wasn't any more discussion, and it wasn't often discussed.
- Q164 Did you ever hear of any other shooting of prisoners by Germans up to that time?
- A164 No, I never heard of it.
- Q165 Did you hear about it afterwards?
- A165 No, I never heard my section commander or any others discuss the shooting of prisoners.
- Q166 Did you ever see any other incident of this kind?

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- A186 No, no order was given that I know of.
- Q187 Do you know who gave the orders for the prisoners to be shot?
- A187 I don't know, but I suppose it came from the Regt Commander.
- Q188 What makes you think that?
- A188 Because when orders come they can only come from above -- from the officers.
- Q189 Well possibly the order was given by some other officer there?
- A189 That is possible, and I cannot exactly say.
- Q190 And you are sure that the Regt Commander MOHNKE was present all of the time from the start of the interrogation till the prisoners were shot?
- A190 I recognized him in the beginning and I saw that no officer had left the group, but I didn't know if he was there the whole time.
- Q191 But you do know that he watched the shooting?
- A191 Yes, if he was looking on with the rest of the officers he must have seen it.
- Lt-Col J.W. Walker, Investigator Cross-Examiner, cross-examines as follows,
- Q192 You were standing 80 to 100 metres from the Command group. Were you not interested in what happened, why didn't you go closer?
- A192 Because it was not allowed to us to look on and I was concealed in the grass.
- Q193 If you were concealed, could you see clearly what was happening?
- A193 I didn't stand behind grass, I stood behind a bush and looked through a gap in the bush.
- Q194 So the bush didn't affect you having a clear vision?
- A194 Yes, I so positioned myself behind it so I could clearly see. It was the usual bush such as occurs in meadows.
- Q195 Could you hear what the Brigade Commander was saying?
- A195 I couldn't understand what he said, but I could make out his gestures.

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- Q196 Was there any sign that he was becoming angry?
- A196 Yes, I could see that he was getting angry by the way he conducted himself, and the gestures he was making.
- Q197 Were there any maps shown to the prisoners?
- A197 No, I didn't see any.
- Q198 Did you hear or see the Commander give any orders to the Feldgendarmerie.
- A198 I didn't see or hear him speak to the Feldgendarmerie, I only suppose that he did.
- Q199 Were there any other ranks closer to this group than you were?
- A199 No, the others were behind me, I was in front of them.
- Q200 You never heard any other NCO or man discuss what happened at the group?
- A200 No, I heard nothing of the sort.
- Q201 You saw the prisoners fired on and they fell forward into a bomb hole, is that right?
- A201 I don't know if they fell into craters but I only suppose that they fell into a bomb crater.
- Q202 Did you go over to look at the bodies?
- A202 No.
- Q203 Did any of your comrades?
- A203 No, not that I know of.
- Q204 Do you know if they were killed or only wounded?
- A204 My belief is that they were killed else the guards would not have run back.
- Q205 You didn't know of any burial of these bodies, or were they just left there?
- A205 They were left where they were shot.
- Q206 You say the HC was there for two days. How long after the shooting did it stay there?
- A206 We pulled back that evening.

Witness retires.

- Q6 What is your father's name?
- A6 Anton STANGENBERG.
- Q7 And your mother's maiden name?
- A7 Klara WELSANDT.
- Q8 What nationality were your parents?
- A8 Polish.
- Q9 Have you any brothers or sisters?
- A9 Two brothers and one sister.
- Q10 What are the names of the brothers?
- A10 The older is called ALBAN.
- Q11 How old is he?
- A11 I don't know exactly, but I think he is 28.
- Q12 And the second brother?
- A12 HUBERT.
- Q13 How old is he?
- A13 He is two years younger, about 26.
- Q14 And your sister's name?
- A14 Hedwig STANGENBERG.
- Q15 How old is she?
- A15 I believe 23 years old.
- Q16 Now, did your father serve in the Polish Army or the German Army?
- A16 I don't know, but I don't think he served in either the Polish or the German Army at any time.
- Q17 What did your father do?
- A17 He is a teacher in an elementary ~~rural~~ school.
- Q18 Was he a member of the Nazi Party?
- A18 No.
- Q19 Were either of your brothers in the Polish or German Army?
- A19 The oldest was in the Polish Army and fought at WARSAW.
- Q20 What happened to him after the fall of Poland?
- A20 He returned after the end of the Polish Campaign and was hidden at home where he worked until a check was made of all inhabitants. He was as far as I know, further concealed at home since then.
- Q21 Was your other brother in the Polish or the German Army?

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- A21 No.
- Q22 What did he do?
- A22 He stayed at home, received a German identity card and was sent to WARSAW in civilian capacity.
- Q23 Do you know if he was ever in the German Army?
- A23 No, he was not.
- Q24 What did you do before you came into the Army?
- A24 I was at home two years, I was studying to be an auto-mechanic.
- Q25 Where were you doing this studying?
- A25 In MEWE, KREIS TIRSCHAU.
- Q26 How much schooling did you have?
- A26 I was at elementary school from the time I was six to thirteen, when the war broke out. From 1941 until May, 1943, I studied for 17 months to be an auto-mechanic. Other than that I have had no schooling.
- Q27 You speak Polish as well as German?
- A27 Yes.
- Q28 Any other language?
- A28 No, only Polish and German.
- Q29 When were you called up to the Army?
- A29 15th of June, 1943.
- Q30 Before you were called into the army, were you in the Hitler-Jugend?
- A30 Yes, I was 4 weeks with the Hitler-Jugend just before I was called up.
- Q31 What was the first military unit which you belonged to?
- A31 No. 5 Training Company, Training Unit 1, BERLIN.
- Q32 Was it SS?
- A32 Training Battalion 1 of the Waffen SS.
- Q33 Did you volunteer for the SS?
- A33 No, I certainly did not.
- Q34 Were you given any choice as to where you wanted to go?
- A34 No, we were not. The whole class of 1926 was called up to go and from my district, PLPAIN, about 400 of us were addressed by a Senior SS officer who called for volunteers first for the SS police and second for the Waffen SS. When no one volunteered he personally interviewed the boys of Germanic stock and those with German names and also those of good

A59 On the night of the 6/7 June, we received the order to pack and load and in the early morning we set off towards the coast. We had been told that the invasion was on. The motorcycle platoon went separately from the headquarters in the direction of CAEN. As I told you before three motor-cycles of the motorcycle platoon were lost and it was not until the 8th or 9th of June that we reported back to the motorcycle platoon.

Q60 Was the motorcycle platoon with the regimental Headquarters when you reported back?

A60 Yes, the motorcycle platoon was with regimental headquarters at that time.

Q61 Do you know where that headquarters was located?

A61 No, I don't know ---- by a cross-roads in the woods.

Q62 Now, did you go there -- did you return at night or in the daytime?

A62 It was towards evening.

Q63 How long did you remain there?

A63 I believe that it was two days or two nights and a day.

Q64 And where did the headquarters go then?

A64 We went then to the second headquarters where the murder took place.

Q65 How long did you remain at that headquarters?

A65 I believe that it was two days.

Q66 How far away was the second headquarters from the first headquarters?

A66 I estimate it to be from 2 to 4 kilometres.

Q67 Where did you go to when you left the second headquarters?

A67 About 1,500 metres just behind the village where we had been.

Q68 How long did you stay in the third headquarters?

A68 Until I was captured, I believe it was the 26th of June.

Q69 Now, were you with the headquarters all the time from your return to the motorcycle platoon on the 8th or 9th of June?

A69 Yes, from the time that I rejoined the platoon at the first regimental headquarters, I was always with the headquarters and the commander, MOHNKE, was there as far as I know on all occasions.

Q70 Now, was your motorcycle section ever in battle?

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- A70 As a motorcycle platoon - no.
- Q71 When was the first time the members of the motorcycle platoon were in battle?
- A71 For the first time, on the day of the big breakthrough, the 24th or the 25th of June.
- Q72 Now, while you were at the headquarters, did you see any British or Canadian troops?
- A72 On two occasions I saw prisoners brought in to the headquarters of the 26th Regiment. In one case it was at the second headquarters and once by the third headquarters, where I saw prisoners being led in, searched and sent off in trucks in the direction of CAEN.
- Q73 Will you tell us about the prisoners that you saw brought into the second headquarters?
- A73 As I told you that time, I saw these prisoners for the first time by regimental headquarters.
- Q74 When you were examined on the 28th of June, 1945 by me, you said that you thought that if you went back to the area you would be able to recognize the headquarters where the shooting of some prisoners took place. Have you been back to that area?
- A74 Yes, I went back.
- Q75 And were you able to recognize the headquarters and the place where the shooting took place?
- A75 Naturally, yes, I showed you at that time where everything took place and pointed out where all the details of the ground were.
- Q76 I show you a photograph. What does that show?
- A76 Yes, that is the house and barn behind regimental headquarters. (Photograph entered as Exhibit "C").
- Q77 I show you another photograph. What does that show?
- A77 That is the group of trees where the regimental headquarters was. (Photograph entered as Exhibit "D").
- Q78 I show you another photograph. What does that show?
- A78 That is the same but seen from a greater distance. (Photograph entered as Exhibit "E").
- Q79 I show you another photograph. What does that show?
- A79 That is the inside of the group of trees where the regimental headquarters was and inside are the slit trenches where the headquarters personnel stayed. (Photograph entered as Exhibit "F").

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Q103 Are you able to describe the prisoners, -- as to how they were dressed?

A103 They were wearing the same uniform that you are wearing (standard battle-dress) I could see no badges or rank designations.

Q104 Did they have helmets or caps of any kind?

A104 They had neither steel helmets nor caps. They were bare-headed.

Q105 Now, did you see the entire interrogation or were you -- did you have to move away?

A105 Not the entire interrogation, I came and saw them while they were in the middle of it. I watched them to the end.

Q106 And did any of the officers at the headquarters send you away?

A106 An officer did not speak but motioned me away with his hand and I moved back.

Q107 At what stage of the interrogation did that happen?

A107 It was about the end of the interrogation.

Q108 What did you do when the officer waved you away?

A108 Following this I went into the bushes by the side and took cover so that he could not see me.

Q109 What happened when the interrogation was over?

A109 The three prisoners were taken along the line of trees to the spot where they were searched by the two Feldgendarmerie - guards. Here their identity discs, documents and all that was in their pockets was taken out and thrown into the ditch by the side.

Q110 Did you see all this happen yourself?

A110 Yes.

Q111 How far away from the headquarters were the prisoners taken before they were searched?

A111 I estimate the distance at 40 metres between where the officers were standing and where the prisoners were searched.

Q112 I show you a photograph. What does that show?

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A112 I was standing here at this time (witness indicates point marked 'X') and the prisoners were here where the soldier is standing with the sign (witness indicates point marked 'Y') I could not be seen here by the officers as you can see from the bushes in the picture (Photograph entered as Exhibit "H").

Q113 How far away were you from the prisoners while they were being searched?

A113 About 60 metres.

Q114 Did you have a clear view of the searching of the prisoners?

A114 Yes, I could see it clearly.

Q115 And how were the identity discs taken off, were they -- how did you know that that happened?

A115 I saw them open the shirts of the prisoners and pull the identity discs over their heads, I figured it could have been nothing other than identity discs.

Q116 What was done with them?

A116 They threw them into the bushes.

Q117 When they finished the search, what happened then?

A117 I saw them come back towards the officers and go through the gap in the hedges into the first field beyond the orchard, they skirted the edge of the trees -- by a line of trees -- and I saw them then go through a gap in the hedge and on into the second field.

Q118 Where were you standing when this happened?

A118 As soon as the prisoners came back towards regimental headquarters, I walked back towards the pump where I stood to watch what happened through a gap in the trees. I was standing some 20 metres from the pump.

Q119 I show you a photograph. What does that show?

A119 This is the view from where I was standing by the pump in the first field. Where the man is standing with a sign (witness indicates spot marked 'Y') is the gap through which the prisoners and escort went into the second field (spot where witness standing marked 'X') (Photograph entered as Exhibit "I").

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- Q139 You mean you measured it when you were back there recently?
- A139 Yes.
- Q140 Did you see the bomb craters near the Second Headquarters where the prisoners were shot when you returned to the area recently?
- A140 Yes, I saw them.
- Q141 I show you a photograph. What is that?
- A141 That is the bomb crater that I mentioned. There is water in it now. I do not believe that the vegetation was there a year ago. (Photograph entered as Exhibit "L").
- Q142 Do you know if the soldiers who were shot were killed?
- A142 My opinion is that they were killed but I don't know.
- Q143 Did you go up and see the bodies?
- A143 No.
- Q144 Do you know if any of the others at the headquarters went up to see?
- A144 I don't believe so - I never heard of it.
- Q145 What were the officers who had taken part in the interrogation doing when the soldiers were marched across the field and shot?
- A145 They turned about and stood so that they could get a view of what was going on.
- Q146 Where did they stand?
- A146 On the same spot where the interrogation took place - that was where they turned around.
- Q147 I show you a photograph. What does that show?
- A147 The officers were standing where I am standing in this picture. (Witness indicates point marked 'X'). they were looking in the direction of the gap towards the white speck on the photograph which is approximately the spot where the prisoners were murdered. (Witness indicates the spot marked 'Y'). The other soldier in the picture is standing beside the entrance to the regimental headquarters. (Witness indicates point marked 'Z'). Photograph entered as Exhibit "K").

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Q148 Now, just so that there will be no misunderstanding about the white speck in the picture (marked 'Y') will you tell us what was used to indicate that point when the picture was taken?

A148 That was a soldier who was holding a small white sign so that it could be seen and show clearly in the picture.

Q149 Now, did you see the officers standing there watching?

A149 Yes, I saw them.

Q150 Were they all there?

A150 I cannot tell you that because I don't know - but in any case I presume they were all there.

Q151 Did you see the regimental commander MOHNKE there?

A151 He must have been also there - I saw him there.

Q152 Now, you told us before that the guards ran back after the shooting. Where did they run to?

A152 They ran back to the first gap between the first and second fields and then from there they made their way back, I cannot say how, I did not see them from then on.

Q153 You said before in your previous examination on the 28th June 1945, Question 153: - the question was "You told us a moment ago that the guards ran back. Where did they run to?" Answer: "Back to regimental headquarters where the staff was".

A153 I meant "towards" regimental headquarters.

Q154 Do you know any reason why they ran rather than walked back?

A154 I cannot say - I don't know.

Q155 Do you know who gave the order for the shooting of these three soldiers?

A155 I don't know.

Q156 You never heard anybody say who gave the order?

A156 No, but my opinion is that it could only have been the Regimental Commander or one of the officers.

troops. At that time the order was for all ranks of the headquarters including batmen signalmen and drivers to take arms and ammunition and to go into action together.

Q177 Did you ever return to that headquarters at the time of the battle?

A177 No.

Q178 And when were you actually taken prisoner?

A178 I don't know the date exactly, but it must have been the 26th of June or thereabouts.

Q179 Do you know where you were captured?

A179 That was on the main road about one and a half kilometres from the third headquarters, by a cross-road.

Q180 Will you describe OSBF MOHNKE to us?

A180 He was about 187 cms high, powerfully built I think bald, a broad face and a partly wooden leg. He was about 40 years of age and came from the Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler.

Q181 Will you describe OSF KAISER?

A181 KAISER was smaller, about 170 cms tall, powerfully built and a portly face. I believe he had black hair. I also believe he had a scar on his face. He did have a big bony nose. I believe he was about 38 years old. He also came from the LAH and I believe he was a peace-time SS man.

Q182 Will you describe Oberleutnant MUELLER to us?

A182 About 30 years old - about 185 cms tall, average build, an officer of the army not the SS, black hair and black eyes, used glasses for reading.

Q183 When you returned to the area recently and revisited the second and third headquarters of 26 Pz Gren Regt, was Capt I.T. Burr with you all the time?

A183 Yes.

Lt-Col J W WALKER, Investigator Cross-Examiner, cross examines the witness.

Q184 You are a Pole?

A184 Yes.

Q185 And your family is Polish?

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- A185 Yes.
- Q186 Are you a good Catholic?
- A186 Yes.
- Q187 Is there any Jewish blood in your family?
- A187 No.
- Q188 Your family remained in Poland after 1939 after the invasion?
- A188 Yes, they wanted to send them into Germany, but we managed to remain behind.
- Q189 Did any of your family take part in the Resistance after 1939?
- A189 I presume that my brother in WARSAW fought with the Underground Movement there from the few hints that he dropped. The rest of my family did not take part in any underground activity.
- Q190 Were any of your family ever brought before the German courts?
- A190 No, none of us. My father was at one time in prison but he never went before a court.
- Q191 What was your father in prison for?
- A191 We lived on the Polish-German border and in 1941, my father gave a speech before his school in which he spoke against Germany. He was betrayed by someone in the village and the next day he was taken off to prison where he stayed a week. After his release there was a second occasion on which he was put in prison. A German who lived in our village, knowing that our family was anti-German denounced our family, I believe to the Gestapo. He was again taken away to prison and after 14 days was set free.
- Q192 Was he tortured?
- A192 He had to work hard and received little food. Others who were in the prison were taken away at night and never returned.
- Q193 Why did they not shoot your father?
- A193 I don't know. It was a matter of fate.
- Q194 You were 17 when you came in the army?
- A194 I was just 17.
- Q195 You were too young to take part in any activity against the Germans?

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Q214 What would have happened if the officer could have seen you?

A214 I don't know.

Q215 Wouldn't you certainly have been punished?

A215 I don't believe so -- I don't know -- but I don't think in the field he would have punished me.

Q216 Was there anything sufficiently extraordinary about this interrogation to make you want to disobey an order to see it?

A216 I was interested to see the first British soldiers I'd seen and as an anti-German I wanted to see the end of it. Someone had said before this, that they would be shot, but the others had said, "Let's see."

Q217 Isn't this the first time that you ever told us about your friends having said this?

A217 I believe I said it in my first interrogation. Actually this was said before I saw the prisoners, and when I was standing by the pump where my comrades were washing, I believe it was SCHITZICK who said, "The prisoners will be shot". And another said, "Come, let's look at them". So several of us went over.

Q218 Are you absolutely sure that MOHNKE was at the headquarters when the prisoners were interrogated?

A218 Yes, he was there.

Q219 You saw him there?

A219 Yes.

Q220 Was he there up to the time when the prisoners were marched away?

A220 Yes.

Q221 You don't know whether he himself gave any orders, do you?

A221 No, I don't know.

Q222 How can you tell that MOHNKE himself watched the prisoners marched away and shot?

A222 Because he was there with the group of officers and they were all looking on

Q223 Can you say that there were any higher visiting officers at the headquarters at that time?

A223 I only saw senior officers at the first and

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third headquarters. Major-General Witt at the first headquarters before he was killed -- and senior officers who were visiting the third headquarters.

Q224 Is it possible that a senior officer or officers might have been in this group that you describe?

A224 I don't know. I cannot say.

The witness withdraws.

We certify that the foregoing transcript consisting of twenty-three pages is a true record of the evidence given before us by the witness 185761 Obergrenadier Withold STANGENBERG.

Sgt. J. W. Walker Lt-Col
Cross-Examiner

A. E. Campbell Major
Examiner.

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that he remembered, he showed perfect confidence and obviously knew his way about this area.

Q13 Where were the land marks and positions which he indicated to you at that time?

A13 In the first place, there was of course the farm house which he saw first. As we entered the orchard he then pointed out the pump and stone trough that he had described at his examination in London in June. From there he took us to the patch of trees where he said the Headquarters had been and showed us the slit trenches that had been dug by the Headquarters personnel when they were there. Then he showed us where the prisoners had been interrogated in the gap in the hedge just outside the Headquarters. Following this he took us along the hedge to the place where the prisoners had been searched and where their documents and identity discs had been thrown into the ditch. He could only give an approximation for this, a stretch of about 30 metres where this could have happened. From there he then walked directly past the pump and over into the next field where he said his own personal slit trench had been. This he found without any delay, although it was overgrown with grass. Then we retraced the route that the prisoners had taken after he had pointed out from the spot near the pump where he was standing and saw the shooting. We went into the next field and then into the field beyond where he had described the bomb craters as being. These were in fact exactly where he had previously described them and he showed us the spot where he had seen the prisoners fall when they had been shot.

Q14 Are you able to designate these various movements and positions which you have just described, on the map?

A14 That is rather difficult for a map of this scale, but I have had prepared an enlargement of the LE HAUT DU BOSQ area on which are the details that are on the map and details added by myself from notes and measurements made at the time that I was there. The area contained in this sketch lies between easting grid lines 90 and 91 and on either side of northing grid line 66. The scale of this enlargement is 25 inches to the mile and one inch equals 70 yards. (Enlargement entered as Exhibit "B").

Q15 Will you indicate to us on the enlargement, Exhibit "B", the house which you have referred to as being identified by STANGENBERG?

A15 Witness indicates.

Q16 Will you print beside that, "house"?

A16 Witness prints the word "House".

Q17 Now, will you indicate the place where -- on this enlargement -- the place where the pump and trough were?

A17 The pump is at the intersection of the lines at the point marked "A".

Q18 Will you indicate now where STANGENBERG said that the actual Headquarters was located?

A18 Witness indicates point marked 'B'.

Q19 Will you now indicate to us the craters pointed out by STANGENBERG which were in the adjacent field?

A19 Craters marked in and indicated by letters, 'C' 'D' and 'E'.

Q20 Will you point out the centre of the area where STANGENBERG indicated the searching of the prisoners had taken place?

A20 Witness indicates point marked 'F'.

Q21 Will you indicate the place where STANGENBERG said his personal slit trench was?

A21 Witness indicates point marked 'G'.

Q22 What are the series of circles which you have drawn on the enlargement?

A22 These are meant to represent hedge with some high trees which I might add have grown considerably in the last year according to STANGENBERG.

Q23 I show you a photograph, Exhibit "C". Will you tell me what that is?

A23 That is the farm house marked "House" on the enlargement seen from the road entrance. This place is known as Ferme du Bosq.

Q24 Now, will you describe to us the area indicated by STANGENBERG as being the actual Regimental Headquarters?

A24 It was a small thick group of trees with cover and an entrance sufficient to hold 2 vehicles. There were slit trenches dug on the sides of the stand where the vehicles had been, but it cannot have been much larger than 25 yards square.

Q25 I show you a photograph, Exhibit "D". What does that show?

A25 That is the entrance to this Headquarters seen from the gap in the hedges immediately beside the Headquarters. The photograph has been taken from the East.

Q26 I show you Exhibit "E". What does that indicate?

A26 This is the same place taken from a greater distance.

Q27 I show you Exhibit "F". What does that show?

A27 That is the inside of the Headquarters itself. In the background you can just make out the slit trenches, this is where the Headquarters vehicle was standing according to STANGENBERG. There is a further approach in to this area around the back.

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Q43 I show you a photograph, Exhibit "L". What does that show?

A43 This is the crater marked 'D' on the enlargement. According to STANGENBERG, these craters were made at the time that he was there when they were bombed from a low level. He believed that the water now present in the crater was of course not there at that time. They are very large bomb craters.

Q44 Will you tell us which of the Regimental Headquarters STANGENBERG said that this was?

A44 He said that this was the second headquarters that he had come to in the area. The first headquarters, we were never able to find. This was probably because he had only been there a short while, arriving and leaving in the dark.

Q45 Was STANGENBERG able to direct you to the next Headquarters to which 26 Pz Gren Regt moved?

A45 Yes, from this area he took us without hesitation to the third headquarters where they had stayed for more than a week following the change of position. This headquarters was dug-in along the road from MR 898653 to MR 902653.

Q46 Will you describe the area to us?

A46 This road was a secondary dirt path choked with under-brush with lines of large trees on both sides of the road. The first 50 to 100 yards of the road -- of this road -- off the main highway were free of digging. From then on, for the next 300 yards, there were slit trenches and reinforced dugouts galore. He located his own slit trench and as we followed on by the road, he, in fact, found his own motorcycle and side car that he had to leave behind the day before he was captured. There were 3 of such motorcycle side-cars, all of Italian manufacture. He took us further on and he located in rapid succession the location of the Signals Centre and Switchboard for the Headquarters. A photograph was taken of that.

Q47 I show you a photograph, Exhibit "O". What does that show?

A47 That is the Signals Centre referred to. STANGENBERG explained the British ammunition boxes were not there at the time and the dugout was covered over.

Q48 Where did he take you then?

A48 He then took us to the place where the Commander's car had been, a sort of excavation. A photograph was taken of this.

Q49 I show you Exhibit "P". What does that show?

A49 That is the excavation in question. The tire shown is of German manufacture.

Q50 Where did he take you next?

A50 He then took us to the heavily reinforced bunker where he said the Officers' Mess and Kitchen had been. This was a good size and had been prepared from trees cut down in the vicinity. It was covered with under-brush which had grown up presumably in the last year. A photograph was taken of this.

Q51 I show you a photograph, Exhibit "N". What does that show?

A51 That is the entrance to the Officers' Mess in question.

Q52 Where did you go next?

A52 He next took us to the Headquarters dugout itself, the actual Command Post. This was also heavily built with logs obtained in the vicinity. The top of the dugout was off, damaged presumably by artillery fire. A photograph was taken of this.

Q53 I show you a photograph, Exhibit "M". What does that show?

A53 That is the Command Post in question. The under-brush here has also grown up in the last year.

Q54 Where did you go to then -- where did he take you to then?

A54 Then he showed us slit trenches and dugouts that were there at the time and where the Headquarters vehicles had been parked in the adjacent field. He also showed us the alternative Command Post, another heavily reinforced dugout.

Q55 What was your impression of STANGENBERG as an observant witness during the time that you were on this trip to NORMANDY?

A55 I had read his original evidence. I was present at his examination and I accompanied him to NORMANDY on this mission. I might also add that I have had considerable experience in evaluating evidence, particularly that given by Prisoners of War. It is my **considered opinion** that STANGENBERG is a reliable and accurate witness. His observations were made with complete confidence and there was no hesitation in his replies to questions. He was completely correct in all his descriptions, particularly of ground. This is rather remarkable considering that he told this story at four different times extended over a year.

Capt W.D.S. Morden, Investigator Cross-Examiner,
declines to cross-examine the witness.

The witness withdraws.

- Q.6 Will you tell us how you came to go there?
- A.6 Well, I was acting on instructions received from No. 1 Canadian War Crimes Investigation Unit to search for some presumed Canadian or British dead reported to be missing in that area. I was also told to look for personal belongings such as discs, wallets, or jack-knives.
- Q.7 What did you do in the way of searching for the personal belongings of these missing personnel?
- A.7 Well, we had a bit of identification -- where to look for them; where the personnel were presumed to have been searched. We searched in this area but nothing was located at that spot.
- Q.8 Are you acquainted with the area, and would you recognize some pictures of it?
- A.8 I would, yes.
- Q.9 I show you Exhibit "K" to the evidence of Grenadier Withold STANGENBERG. Will you tell me what that picture indicates?
- A.9 It indicates the presumed headquarters of the German unit. I recognize the entrance to the headquarters of the German unit represented by the letter "Z".
- Q.10 Now, will you describe to us the nature of the interior of that headquarters?
- A.10 Well, that headquarters is all covered by trees - it cannot be seen from the air. In the inside there are a few slit trenches. That's about all.
- Q.11 I show you Exhibit "F" to the evidence of Grenadier Withold STANGENBERG. Do you recognize that picture too?
- A.11 I do. This is the headquarters.
- Q.12 That is the place that was reported to you as being the headquarters of the unit in that area?
- A.12 Yes.
- Q.13 Now, will you tell us what success you had in your search for the personal effects of these missing persons?
- A.13 After exhaustive search we found a disc bearing the rank and name of Sapper IONEL, initial "J".
- Q.14 Do you know the regimental number?
- A.14 Yes. B-142277.
- Q.15 And where was that found?
- A.15 It was found in that unit headquarters near a slit trench; at the far end of the unit headquarters near a slit trench.
- Q.16 With reference to Exhibit "F" would you indicate on the photograph where it was that the disc was found?
- A.16 I will mark it with a cross. (Witness marks a cross on photograph, Exhibit "F").

- Q.17 Now, did you find this disc personally?
- A.17 No.
- Q.18 How did you come to know that it was found at the point "X" on Exhibit "F"?
- A.18 Because while the party was doing all the searching I was going from one man to the other.
- Q.19 Who was in the party?
- A.19 It was German labour.
- Q.20 German Prisoners of War?
- A.20 German Prisoners of War.
- Q.21 Now, have you got the original disc?
- A.21 Yes. I've got the disc for use as evidence.
- (Identity disc of B-142277 Sapper IONEL J, Canadian C.E., with small portion of cord attached, is entered as Exhibit "R").
- Q.22 Is that identity disc in exactly the same condition in which it was found by the German PW, and handed to you?
- A.22 Yes.
- Q.23 Were the ends of the cord just precisely as they are now, indicating that they had been cut with some sharp instrument?
- A.23 They are. I was near that place actually when he found the disc, so that I was there in the matter of seconds.
- Q.24 You did not find a second disc?
- A.24 No. We looked for more discs or more evidence but without any success.
- Q.25 I show you Exhibit "B" to the evidence of Captain I T BURR; will you indicate where it was that you found the disc?
- A.25 We found the disc at the letter "D".
(Witness indicates point marked "B" on the enlargement)
- Q.26 Now, did you make a search for the bodies of the three missing persons?
- A.26 We did.
- Q.27 And did you find them?
- A.27 Yes. We found three bodies in a bomb crater.
- Q.28 With reference to Exhibit "B" of the evidence of Captain I T BURR, will you indicate where that bomb crater is located?
- A.28 That bomb crater was at this letter "D".
(Bomb crater indicated at point "D" on the enlargement)

and try to identify these three bodies.

Q.55 Do you know who conducted the autopsy?

A.55 The autopsy was conducted by Capt. B.B. Wagman, the medical officer attached to No. 2 Canadian Graves Concentration Unit.

Q.56 And were dental charts taken?

A.56 Yes. Dental charts were taken by Capt. Stan Holmes, attached to No. 2 Canadian Graves Concentration Unit. The reported identification has been submitted as such to 2GC/UNK/351, 2GC/UNK/352, and 2GC/UNK/353.

Q.57 Has your unit had any instructions yet from the Records Department identifying these bodies?

A.57 Not yet.

Q.58 Will you describe each of the bodies as they were first observed by you by reference to their "Unknown Number"?

A.58 The first one, 2GC/UNK/351, was dressed with Canadian battle dress on with the flashes of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles of Canada; 3rd Div. patches and ordinary Canadian boots, ankle. 2GC/UNK/352 had Canadian battle dress and 3rd Div. patches, R.C.E. You know, the French-grey one with the letters R.C.E. in red in the middle of it. And he had also ordinary Canadian boots, ankle. 2GC/UNK/353 had Canada flashes on. He had 3rd Div. patches, R.C.E., the same as the other one, and he also had the high, dark boots which were used by the 3rd Canadian Div.

Q.59 That is, you mean the type of black army boot which comes about three inches higher than the ordinary boot, ankle; sometimes referred to as tank boots?

A.59 The ones used by the invasion, the invasion boot.

Q.60 Now, did you find any head-dress or other badges of any kind?

A.60 No.

Q.61 And no items of personal jewellery or anything of that nature?

A.61 The only thing we found was the disc. They had been stripped and they had absolutely nothing on.

Q.62 By that you mean they had no personal effects left?

A.62 Yes. No personal effects were left.

Q.63 Will you tell us where each of these bodies is buried?

A.63 You mean now? Where they are now?

Q.64 Will you tell us exactly where these three bodies were concentrated?

A.64 These three bodies were concentrated at the Canadian Military Cemetery, Bretteville-sur-Laize, and they are buried as follows: 2GC/UNK/353 is now buried in plot

23, row "G", grave 5. 2GC/UNK/352 is now buried in plot 23, row "G", grave 6. 2GC/UNK/351 is now buried in plot 23, row "G", grave 7. They were concentrated on the 26th of July, 1945.

CROSS/EXAMINED BY MAJOR MORDEN:

- Q.65 I show you Exhibit "H" in the evidence of Grenadier Withold Stangenberg. Did you search at point marked "Y" for identity discs, personal papers, etc. of three missing soldiers?
- A.65 Yes, we did.
- Q.66 Did you find anything at that place?
- A.66 No, nothing at all.

RE-EXAMINED BY LT.-COL. CAMPBELL:

- Q.67 Were you able to make any estimate of the nature or extent of the injuries which were sustained by the three unidentified soldiers that you found in this bomb crater?
- A.67 No I was not because the bodies were too badly decomposed.
- Q.68 Did you see any indication of injury at all?
- A.68 I checked the heads to see if they had any head wounds but they had none. It would appear that they had been shot through the stomach but it was impossible for me to investigate the wounds.
- Q.69 Was an autopsy performed on these bodies?
- A.69 Later on, yes.
- Q.70 How much later?
- A.70 I would say a week. Yes, about a week later, as far as I know. The bodies were first concentrated in a cemetery.

--- The witness withdraws.

We certify that the foregoing transcript consisting of 7 pages is a true record of the evidence given before us by the witness Lieut. Roger Cloutier, No. 2 Canadian Graves Concentration Unit, C.A.

Lt.-Col. Campbell

Lt.-Col.,
Examiner.

Major Morden

Major,
Cross-
examiner.

- 3 -

Q-21 When did you go to France?

A-21 In the beginning of March. It may have been the middle of March, 1944.

Q-22 And you remained there down until the time of the invasion on the 6th June?

A-22 Yes.

Q-23 At the time of the invasion who was the commander of the regiment?

A-23 MOHNKE.

Q-24 What was his rank?

A-24 On the 21st of June he became Standartenführer. Before that he was Obersturmbannführer.

Q-25 Who was the adjutant at the time of the invasion?

A-25 On the first day it was still Untersturmführer WOLTERS. During the first days he was relieved.

Q-26 Now, before WOLTERS was adjutant who was adjutant?

A-26 Obersturmführer KAISER.

Q-27 And who succeeded WOLTERS as adjutant?

A-27 KAISER again.

Q-28 What is WOLTERS's Christian name?

A-28 I don't know.

Q-29 How old was he?

A-29 Twenty-two, twenty-three. I didn't see him often.

Q-30 Who was the Headquarters Company commander?

A-30 KAISER led it before the invasion and then became adjutant again.

Q-31 Do you know when he became adjutant again?

A-31 I don't know the exact date. I know it was during the first days.

Q-32 Was he an Obersturmführer or Hauptsturmführer?

A-32 He was Obersturmführer until the 21st of June.

Q-33 And then he became a Hauptsturmführer?

A-33 Yes.

Q-34 Who was your platoon commander?

A-34 Leutnant MUELLER.

Q-35 Do you know his Christian name?

A-35 I cannot think of it at the moment but I knew it at one time.

Q-36 Was he an SS officer or Wehrmacht?

A-36 Wehrmacht.

Q-37 Who were the section commanders in your platoon?

A-37 Of my section, the first section, Unterscharführer MUELLER, Otto.

Q-38 And who were the other section commanders?

A-38 Second section was Unterscharführer MUELLER, Gerhardt.

Q-39 And were there just two sections, or were there three?

A-39 Well, two sections and one squad.

Q-40 Who commanded this squad that you speak of?

A-40 Unterscharführer SCHITZICK, Herbert.

Q-41 What other officers were there around the headquarters?

A-41 There was an Ordonnanz Offizier.

Q-42 What was his name?

A-42 I once knew his name. I don't remember it now. He was an Obersturmführer.

Q-43 Was he an Ordonnanz Offizier to division or to one of the battalions?

A-43 Yes, up to Division. I think his name was BUSCHE, but I am not quite sure.

Q-44 Who was the Signals Officer?

A-44 It was Obersturmführer GRIEBEL who led the Sigs Platoon.

Q-45 Was there any officer at the headquarters who spoke English?

A-45 That I don't know.

Q-46 Well, who acted as interpreter there when prisoners were interrogated?

A-46 Yes, there was an officer but I only saw him when he interrogated.

Q-47 Had he not been with the headquarters before the invasion?

A-47 No. I didn't see him before.

Q-48 Do you know who the Transport Officer was?

A-48 There was a Hauptsturmführer but I don't remember his name.

- 7 -

- Q-67 How long did you remain at the second headquarters?
- A-67 From the 10th in the morning until the 11th, late afternoon to evening.
- Q-68 And where did you go then?
- A-68 In the evening our section took up a defensive position and the next morning we were fetched by a motorcycle D.R. of our headquarters squad, and then we went back to the Regimental Headquarters -- the old one -- picked up our motorcycles and drove to the new Regimental Headquarters.
- Q-69 You are speaking now of driving to the third headquarters?
- A-69 Yes.
- Q-70 How far away was it from the second headquarters?
- A-70 From six to eight hundred metres from the right wing of the farm, kind of backwards.
- Q-71 Was it along the paved road?
- A-71 I think it was an asphalt road.
- Q-72 How long did you remain in this third headquarters?
- A-72 Until the 26th; and once in that time we went forward to take up that defensive position in the place I have just described.
- Q-73 But did the headquarters move at all from the evening of the 11th of June until you were taken prisoner on the 26th of June?
- A-73 No.
- Q-74 Do you know why the headquarters was moved from the second place to the third location?
- A-74 After some bombs were dropped it was moved and, I suppose, it was moved because of the bombs, therefore. They supposed, I believe, that it was now known where the headquarters was. Actually we heard a lot of shooting but we didn't hear about a rumour of a tank Break-through until we had to take up the defensive position that evening, that is when we heard it.
- Q-75 When did you take that defensive position?
- A-75 It was after four o'clock. It may have been half-past four.
- Q-76 On the 11th of June?
- A-76 Yes. On that day.

Q-77 Did you see any Allied prisoners at the first headquarters?

A-77 Yes, on the 8th I saw that big column where there were over 100 men.

Q-78 And were they interrogated by anybody at the headquarters?

A-78 I don't know. You see we could not see Regimental Headquarters from where we were lying in the field. The word was passed: "Here comes prisoners!" and we saw the prisoners, so we walked up to the road until they had passed and then we went back to our machines.

Q-79 Was that the only group of prisoners that you saw at the first headquarters?

A-79 Yes.

Q-80 Did you see any prisoners taken at the second headquarters?

A-80 Yes.

Q-81 How many lots of prisoners did you see there?

A-81 Three groups.

Q-82 When did they arrive there?

A-82 Two groups arrived the first day.

Q-83 That is, on the 10th?

A-83 Yes.

Q-84 How many were there?

A-84 Eight or nine altogether.

Q-85 And were they interrogated at the headquarters?

A-85 I don't know. I only saw them on the car.

Q-86 This was a German vehicle was it?

A-86 Yes.

Q-87 Where did they come from, do you know?

A-87 I saw them as they were being taken away. From the front to Regimental Headquarters most of them came on foot.

Q-88 In whose charge were they when you saw them?

A-88 The Feldgendarmarie.

Q-89 What happened to these prisoners?

A-89 They were taken away by car.

Q-90 Do you know whether these prisoners you saw on the 10th were British, Canadians, or what?

A-90 I don't know what they were.

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- A-115 Yes. It was right immediately after the interrogation.
- Q-116 Was MOHNKE present when the prisoners were marched away?
- A-116 Yes.
- Q-117 How long did he remain in front of the headquarters; do you know?
- A-117 As long as I saw the prisoners he was still standing there.
- Q-118 You mentioned a moment ago that one of the prisoners had taken off his identity disk and handed it to the Feldgendarmarie?
- A-118 Yes.
- Q-119 What about the other two prisoners?
- A-119 I don't remember about the other two. I just remember that one had his jacket open and he took something off his head and they were hanging on what seemed to be a chain.
- Q-120 Do you know whether these prisoners were Canadian or British?
- A-120 I don't know what they were.
- Q-121 Was this the first time that you had ever really been close to prisoners?
- A-121 Well, at the first Regimental Headquarters we stood right beside the road as that big group marched past.
- Q-122 But this was the first time that you had had a chance to stand and look at any Allied soldiers for such a length of time?
- A-122 Yes.
- Q-123 When the search was completed what happened then?
- A-123 The Hauptscharführer and the Sturmmann led them along the hedge-row.
- Q-124 And after that what happened?
- A-124 First they walked down and then they crossed through the hedge and they went along the meadow down to the road. Then they walked along the road to the next meadow where the bombs had fallen. Then I saw them perhaps another ten or fifteen paces.
- Q-125 How far away were they from the bomb craters when you last saw them?
- A-125 It may have been thirty-five to forty paces.

Q-126 From the bomb crater?

A-126 Yes.

Q-127 Were the officers still standing and watching them at that time?

A-127 Up to that moment they still stood there.

Q-128 Did they appear to be watching the prisoners and the Feldgendarmerie?

A-128 We looked at the receding prisoners but whether they looked at them I don't know.

Q-129 What happened to the prisoners after you last saw them?

A-129 They were being led to the bomb craters; then said Unterscharführer SCHITZICK, "I say! They are not going to shoot those prisoners, are they, as they are leading them to the bomb craters?" and I said, "Well, if they do I am going to turn around and go away. I cannot watch a thing like that".

Q-130 What happened then?

A-130 Then came SCHEPERS and he said to me "They have shot the prisoners in the bomb craters".

Q-131 Did you hear the shots fired?

A-131 Yes. I heard first a burst; it could have come from a machine pistol or a machine gun, and then I heard individual shots.

Q-132 Had you returned to your fox hole after SCHITZICK had indicated that it looked as though they were going to shoot the prisoners?

A-132 Yes.

Q-133 How long did you remain there?

A-133 Until right away SCHEPERS came and said that they had been shot.

Q-134 Did you see what the Feldgendarmerie did after the shooting?

A-134 No. I only saw them again as they were back at Regimental Headquarters.

Q-135 And did you see them right in the Regimental Headquarters?

A-135 Yes. By the Regimental Headquarters I saw them.

Q-136 Were there any officers there at that time?

A-136 No. I didn't see any officers there.

Q-137 Did you say you saw them right in the Regimental Headquarters; I mean right in the area which was covered over by the trees?

A-137 It was direct next to the Regimental Headquarters.

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- A-163 Recce unit of the Division.
- Q-164 How many people did you see around the bomb crater?
- A-164 Eight, nine or perhaps more -- twelve.
- Q-165 Did you go up to the bomb crater yourself?
- A-165 No.
- Q-166 Did you hear any of your other comrades say that they had gone up to the bomb crater?
- A-166 No. We wanted to go there but we were not allowed to go there.
- Q-167 Was an order given that you were not to go?
- A-167 Yes.
- Q-168 By whom?
- A-168 From our section leaders.
- Q-169 How far away was the bomb crater?
- A-169 It may have been perhaps four to five hundred metres from our H.Q.
- Q-170 How soon after the shooting was it that the headquarters was moved?
- A-170 They left about half an hour after the shooting. Shortly before the airplane low level attacks began.
- Q-171 What time was it that the prisoners were interrogated at the headquarters?
- A-171 They came between three and four. I cannot give you the exact time, I cannot remember it. But about five minutes after they came they were interrogated.
- Q-172 How long after the bombing had taken place was it that the prisoners arrived?
- A-172 About an hour.
- Q-173 Had some of the vehicles of the headquarters been moved immediately after the bombing?
- A-173 To the new headquarters?
- Q-174 Yes.
- A-174 Yes. The Steyr command car and a few of the half-tracked command vehicles.
- Q-175 They had already moved before the prisoners arrived?
- A-175 Yes.
- Q-176 What were the normal vehicles which were at your Regimental Headquarters?

- A-176 Three Befehlswagens "Steyr" (command vehicle); then four to five Befehlspanzers (half tracks with radios in them); two to three Opel-Blitz Funkwagens (big radio signal vehicles) and some staff cars of Italian make.
- Q-177 In other words, up to the time that the shooting took place only one command vehicle and two or three half tracks had been taken away?
- A-177 Yes.
- Q-178 Did you move away with the headquarters?
- A-178 No.
- Q-179 What was your platoon doing?
- A-179 Our section stood behind until we had to go out to take a defensive position. The other section and platoon H.Q. squad moved with Regimental Headquarters.
- Q-180 What time did you move off to your defensive position?
- A-180 About five o'clock.
- Q-181 And the headquarters had all moved by that time had they?
- A-181 Yes.
- Q-182 When was this low flying air attack which you spoke of?
- A-182 Approximately half an hour after the shooting.
- Q-183 But before you went away to the defensive position?
- A-183 Yes.
- Q-184 Were there any officers at the headquarters at the time of this low flying air attack?
- A-184 No. The only one I saw then was the Ordonnanz Offizier of the 1st Battalion. He was a Sturmscharführer.
- Q-185 Do you know his name?
- A-185 No. I don't know his name.
- Q-186 How old was he?
- A-186 Thirty to thirty-three.
- Q-187 Did you see any prisoners at the third headquarters?
- A-187 Yes.
- Q-188 When?
- A-188 The first group I saw about eight to ten days after we came to the third H.Q.

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Q-213 Was he from the Leibstandarte?

A-213 Yes.

Q-214 Will you describe Obersturmführer GRIEBEL.

A-214 I only saw him very infrequently. You see, the Sigs Platoon was not actually with us.

Q-215 Is there any possibility that he was the officer who acted as interpreter?

A-215 No. GRIEBEL I remember. I can recognize him. This man, the interrogator, I did not know.

Q-216 Will you describe Lieutenant MUELLER?

A-216 About 1.78, my own height. He was rather thinly built; a friendly expression on his face; blond hair.

Q-217 How old was he?

A-217 Twenty-two.

Q-218 Do you know by any chance what his Christian name was?

A-218 I knew his first name but I can no longer remember it.

Q-219 Do you know what became of him?

A-219 I don't know about him at all. I heard nothing.

Q-220 During your training in Belgium, France, and before the invasion had you received any special instructions about the treatment of prisoners.

A-220 I only know of one order. It was given by WITT and it was given while we were already in France. We were told to treat the prisoners well and only to take weapons from them. Jews are to be treated particularly well as they are good interrogation material.

Q-221 From whom did you get this order?

A-221 That was read out in front of the company.

Q-222 By whom?

A-222 From the Hauptscharführer ZELZ (Zelts).

Q-223 What is his Christian name?

A-223 I don't remember any more.

Q-224 Did you ever hear during that period that the Allies would not take prisoners?

A-224 Yes. We were told that by Unterscharführer Otto MUELLER.

Q-225 When was that?

A-225 On 6th June, shortly before we left for the front, and on the 26th he said it again as we went up to the front line that we should not let ourselves be taken prisoner.

Q-226 Did you ever hear anybody say that you should not take prisoners.

A-226 No. That was never said to us.

Q-227 Did you ever hear of any other prisoners being shot besides the one you saw on the 11th?

A-227 No. I saw no one.

Q-228 Do you think that if you were taken back to the area where the second headquarters was that you would be able to recognize the features on the ground, the place where the headquarters actually was, and the bomb craters and so on?

A-228 Yes. I believe so, approximately. I certainly know where the Regimental Headquarters was but whether I could find the bomb holes again -- they have probably been covered up.

Q-229 I want to go back for a moment to the time when the interrogation, search and shooting took place. You have already told us that you watched the prisoners marched away across the meadow until they were within about forty to fifty metres of the bomb crater where they were shot?

A-229 Yes. Up to that I followed them.

Q-230 Do you know if at that time the officers at the regimental headquarters, including the Regimental Commander, were also watching the prisoners?

A-230 Yes. They certainly stood there. That I know.

Q-231 Did you notice them leave the headquarters at any time shortly after that?

A-231 I can't remember that.

Q-232 So far as you know they just moved off with the rest of the headquarters when it finally moved to the third location?

A-232 Yes.

Q-233 Did you see anything during the interrogation or immediately following it that indicated to you who gave the order for the prisoners to be taken away and shot?

A-233 I could not say that. The man stood with his back to me.

Q-234 Who do you think gave the order?

A-234 My impression is that it could only have been MOHNKE.

Q-235 And why do you say that?

EXHIBIT NO. 9

2 Canadian Graves Concentration Unit
7 Aug 45

AUTOPSY REPORT

2 GC/UNK/351

On Aug 7 1945 Grave 7 Plot 23 Row G of the Bretteville-sur-Laize Cdn Military Cemetery was exhumed and an autopsy performed on the remains.

The body was clothed in a Canadian battle-dress blouse and trousers. The blouse bore the shoulder flashes of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles and also the 3rd divisional patch. Canadian boots approximately size 8 were also present. Height was approximately 5'8" and weight approximately 170 lbs.

Examination revealed a pigmented area on the skin of the abdomen in the upper right quadrant. This area was an oval shape and approximately 1 inch in the long diameter. In the centre of this area was a raised area, also pigmented, which suggested a mole. This was raised about 1/8 inch and about 1/4 inch in diameter.

The body was in an advance stage of decomposition. The skull was present and examined for trace of injury - no signs of trauma were found. The long bones were intact and unbroken. There was dental evidence and a dental chart was taken. The chest was opened and the thoracic cavity was examined. No evidence of injury or trauma was found. The abdomen was opened and no evidence of injury was found.

The remains were searched for missiles and shrapnel but none were found. Cause of death could not be ascertained.

(Signed)

BB Wagman Capt

(B B Wagman) Capt R.C.A.M.C.
Medical Officer 2 Cdn Graves Conc Unit
Canadian Army Overseas.

EXHIBIT NO. 10

2 Canadian Graves Concentration Unit
7 Aug 45

AUTOPSY REPORT2 GC/UNK/352

On 7 Aug 45, Grave 6 Plot 23 Row G of the Bretteville-sur-Laize Canadian Military Cemetery was exhumed and an autopsy was performed on the remains.

The remains were clothed in a Cdn battle-dress blouse bearing the 3rd divisional Engineers patch. The body was entirely disorganized and was heaped up into a mass of degenerated material. There was several ragged $\frac{1}{2}$ " holes in the in the battle blouse over the back of the right chest. This could not be correlated to any fleshy tissue injury. Height estimated is that of a fairly tall man and the weight being moderate.

The skull was fractured into many pieces. There was no dental evidence. The long bones were present and intact. All the short bones could not be located, several bones were found unbroken. The abdomen and soft tissues had disintegrated into a mass of jelly like material.

The remains were searched for foreign bodies and shrapnel but none were found.

Cause of death is undeterminable as the injuries and the many fractures present may have been caused after death.

(Signed)

BB Wagman Capt

(B B Wagman) Capt R.C.A.M.C.
Medical Officer 2 Cdn Graves Conc. Unit
Canadian Army Overseas.

- (a) Were any items of personal effects obtained?
 Yes.....
 If so, by whom:... Capt R.T. Miller.....
 What disposition was made? Forwarded to OIC
 Cdn Sec GHQ 2nd Ech with Unit Committee of
 Adjustment Report.
- (b) Number of witnesses signed statements attached.
 ..One.....
- (c) Rank, names in full, and unit of witnesses
 and/or other sources of information from
 which the above was obtained:
 Major T.R. Murphy - 6 Cdn
 Fd Coy R.C.E.....

Missing 7 Jun 44

(Sgd) R.F. Milles,
 Capt.,
 for Officer
 Commanding.

(Sgd) M.A. Willis Capt

Casualties Section

Cdn Sec G.H.Q. 2 Ech 21 Army Gp

Footnote:

1. Reference 2(a). The information shown here should be such as to establish as accurately as possible, the last place he was seen by anyone, whether on land or before or after embarking, (if, on enemy territory give the approx. location), or on landing craft, the type and/or name of craft, or if in the water, the approximate distance from shore.

Certified true Copy of
 documents on File at
 Records, C.M.H.Q.

(Sgd) A.R. Dillon, Lt
 R-5
 for Officer i/c Records
 CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

EXHIBIT N^o 12

STATEMENT RE H.142277 Spr IONEL, J., 6
Cdn Field Coy, R.C.E.

REPORTED MISSING FROM 7 JUNE 1944.

On the evening of 7 June 44 at about 2200 hours I visited a party from No. 3 Pl, 6 Cdn Field Coy R.C.E. engaged in laying minefield in the vicinity of GARDE FM, MR. 905705. Spr IONEL was engaged in laying marking tapes about 500 yards SW of the farm. At approx 2230 hours the mine laying group was attacked from the general direction of SE by approx 1 platoon of enemy. When they were discovered the enemy had out-flanked our party and the party withdrew. Spr IONEL was cut off by the enemy from the line of withdrawal, and when last seen was not wounded.

(Sgt) T.R. Murphy

(T.R. Murphy) Major
O.C. 6 Cdn Field Coy R.C.E.

Certified True Copy of documents
on file at Records, C.M.H.Q., at-
tached to Questionnaire.

(Sgd) A.R. Dillon, Lt.
(for) Officer i/c Records
CANADIAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS.

EXHIBIT NO...13..

6 CDN FIELD COMPANY, R.C.E.

STATEMENT RE B.25464 Spr BENNER, G.A.,
6 Cdn Field Coy, R.C.E.Reported MISSING from 7 June 1944.

Cable #236

On the evening of 7 June 1944 at about 2200 hrs I visited a party from #3 Pl, 6 Cdn Field Coy, R.C.E. engaged in laying mine-field in vicinity of GARDE Fme M.R. 905705. Spr Benner was engaged in laying marking tapes about 500 yds SW of the farm. At approx 2230 hrs the mine laying group was attacked from the general direction of SE by approx 1 platoon of Enemy. When they were discovered, the enemy had outflanked our party and the party withdrew. Benner was cut off by the enemy from the line of withdrawal and when last seen was not wounded.

(Sgd) T.R. Murphy

(T.R. Murphy) Major
O.C. 6 Cdn Field Coy, R.C.E.Certified True Copy of documents attached
to Questionnaire on file at C.M.H.C.

(Sgd) A.R. Dillon, Lt.

Appendix "A"

Unit: R. W. R.
Date: 30 Jun 44To: Officer i/c
Canadian Section, G.H.C.
2nd Echelon
21 Army Group.QUESTIONNAIRE ON A MISSING OFFICER OR SOLDIER

No...L105551....Rank..Rfn....Name OWENS, A.R.

1. Information now on file at Canadian Section G.H.C.
2nd Echelon is as follows:
Missing 8 Jun.2. Circumstances leading to his disappearance

- (a) Where was he last seen?.....
(see footnote of this form)
.....
- (b) He was last seen by..... H-6988 L/Cpl Roque, H
.....H40960 Cpl Chartrand, H.L.
- (c) who were engaged in.....Mine laying.....
- (d) Where seen from.....
Approx distance Less than 10 ft. Visibility:Clear
sunny day.
About what time: 1930 hrs..Date: 7 June 44.....
- (d) Who was with him? ..Mine Laying Party incl a/m...
(give names of personnel if known.)
- (e) To what task was he assigned?..Mine laying.....
- (f) What was he doing? ..Unloading Mines from Veh.....
- (g) Give details of what happened. Party was taking
mines from vehicle to Dump. Enemy opened fire
Officer gave orders to move off individually.
Rfn Owens NOT seen again after firing.

3. Physical condition

- (a) Was he alive at the time? ..Yes....If dead, was
any attempt made to recover the body? N/A
- (b) If wounded, how seriously....N/A.....
- (c) Nature of medical attention given...N/A.....
by whom.....N.A.....
- (d) Was he being otherwise assisted by anyone? No.
If so, by whom?N.A.....

4. Information re the enemy

- (a) How far away where the enemy? ..Approx 120 yds...
- (b) What sort of fire was he up against? M.G. Fire.
- (c) What cover from this fire available? ..Grain.....

EXHIBIT NO 15

REC/B-142277

19 Oct 45.

MEMORANDUM TO:- Officer i/c Records.

B-142277 Spr IONEL, John.
 6 Field Coy., R.C.E.

The m/n soldier was listed as missing on 7 Jun 44 and subsequently presumed killed.

2. It is thought that his category might be changed to killed in action in view of the particulars relating to an unidentified soldier buried originally at MR 905662 sheet 7F/1, which give reasonable grounds for establishing his identity as being that of the m/n. The details on the report 2GC/UNK/352 and the circumstances under which the m/n was reported missing, are given below.

3. No dental report was possible.

4. Statement made by Major T.R. MURPHY, forwarded to this office with the missing questionnaire says - "On the evening of 7 Jun 44 at about 2200 hrs I visited a party from No. 3 pl. 6 Cdn Field Coy., R.C.E. engaged in laying minefield in the vicinity of Garde Fm., MR 905705. Spr Ionel, was engaged in laying marking tapes about 500 yds SW of the farm. At approx 2230 hrs the mine laying group was attacked from the general direction of SE by approx one platoon of enemy. When they were discovered the enemy had outflanked our party and the party withdrew. Spr Ionel was cut off by the enemy from the line of withdrawal and when last seen was not wounded."

Extract from War Diary of 6 Cdn. Field Coy., R.C.E. for 7 Jun 44 - "No. 2 platoon moved back with the infantry to Le Fresne Camilly at 0130 and advanced to Bretteville at 0430 hrs arriving in the Bretteville and Putot-en-Bessin area at 1200 hrs. It was planned to lay minefields forward of this position with No. 3 platoon augmenting No. 2 platoon. The field was sited beyond cover of infantry fire and was given an inadequate covering party. As a result the party was outflanked and surprised by the enemy in an attack which developed into a major attack against the Royal Winnipeg Rifles' position and was forced to withdraw.... Four men were cut off from the line of withdrawal. One of these men, Spr. WISEMAN J.B., returned later to the unit, but the others missing are: Spr. IONEL, J., Spr. CAMPBELL, W.E. and Spr BENNER, G.A..."
 (N.B. Spr. Campbell has been repatriated to Canada)

4. In view of the above information, may approval be given please, for the identification of 2 GC/UNK/352 as B-142277 Spr. IONEL, J.

ARD/DB.

(Sgd) ?

R.5 Wing.

EXHIBIT NO 16

REG/B-25464

19 Oct 45.

MEMORANDUM TO: Officer i/c Records.

B25464 Spr. BENNER, George Alonzo.
6 Field Coy., R.C.E.

The m/n soldier was listed as missing on 7 Jun 44 and subsequently presumed killed.

2. It is thought that his category might be changed to killed in action in view of the particulars relating to an unidentified soldier, buried originally at MR 905662 sheet 7F/1, which give reasonable grounds for establishing his identity as being that of the m/n. The details on the report 2GC/UNK/353 and the circumstances under which the m/n was reported missing, are given below.

3. The dental report agreed in so many particulars that identification of the m/n is practically positive.

Statement made by Major T.R. MURPHY, forwarded to this office with the missing questionnaire says - "On the evening of 7 Jun 44 at about 2200 hrs I visited a party from #3 Pl. 6 Cdn. Fld. Coy., R.C.E. engaged in laying minefield in vicinity of Garde Fme., MR 905705. Spr Benner was engaged in laying marking tapes about 500 yds S.W. of the farm. At approx. 2230 hrs the mine laying group was attacked from the general direction of S.E. by approx. one platoon of enemy. When they were discovered, the enemy had outflanked our party and the party withdrew. Benner was cut off by the enemy from the line of withdrawal and when last seen was not wounded."

Extract from War Diary of 6 Cdn Field Coy, R.C.E. for 7 Jun 44 - "No. 2 platoon moved back with the infantry to Le Fresne Camilly at 0130 and advanced to Bretteville at 0430 hrs arriving in the Bretteville and Putot-en-Bessin area at 1200 hrs. It was planned to lay minefields forward of this position with No. 3 platoon augmenting No. 2 platoon. The field was sited beyond cover of infantry fire and was given an inadequate covering party. As a result the party was outflanked and surprised by the enemy in an attack which developed into a major attack against the Royal Winnipeg Rifles' position and was forced to withdraw.... Four men were cut off from the line of withdrawal. One of these men, Spr. WISEMAN, J.B. returned later to the unit, but the others missing are: Spr IONEL, J., Spr CAMPBELL, W.E. and Spr BENNER, G.A." (N.B. Spr Campbell has been repatriated to Canada)

4. In view of the above information, may approval be given please, for the identification of 2GC/UNK/353 as B-25464 Spr. BENNER, G.A.

ARD/DB.

(Sgd) ?
 R.5 Wing.

7

PART V

EXHIBITS

LIST OF EXHIBITS

(In order of appearance in this volume)

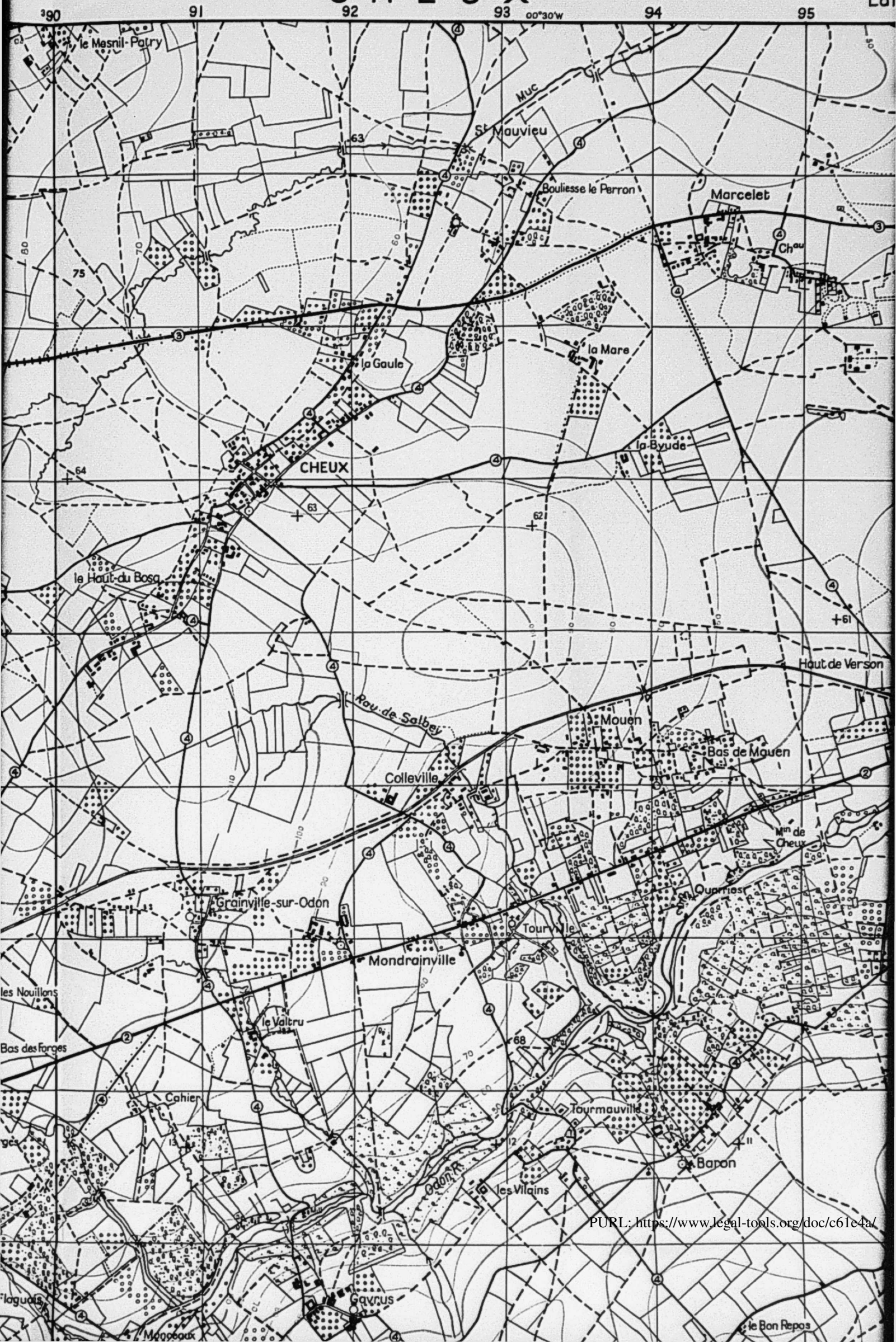
1. Map CHEUX Sheet 37/16 SE 1:25,000 (Exhibit A to the evidence of Capt. I.T. BURR).
2. Map enlargement (Exhibit B to the evidence of Capt. I. T. BURR).
3. Identity disc of Spr IONEL, J. (Exhibit A to the evidence of Lt. Roger CLOUTIER - not included).
4. Photographs referred to in STANGENBERG's evidence as listed below:-

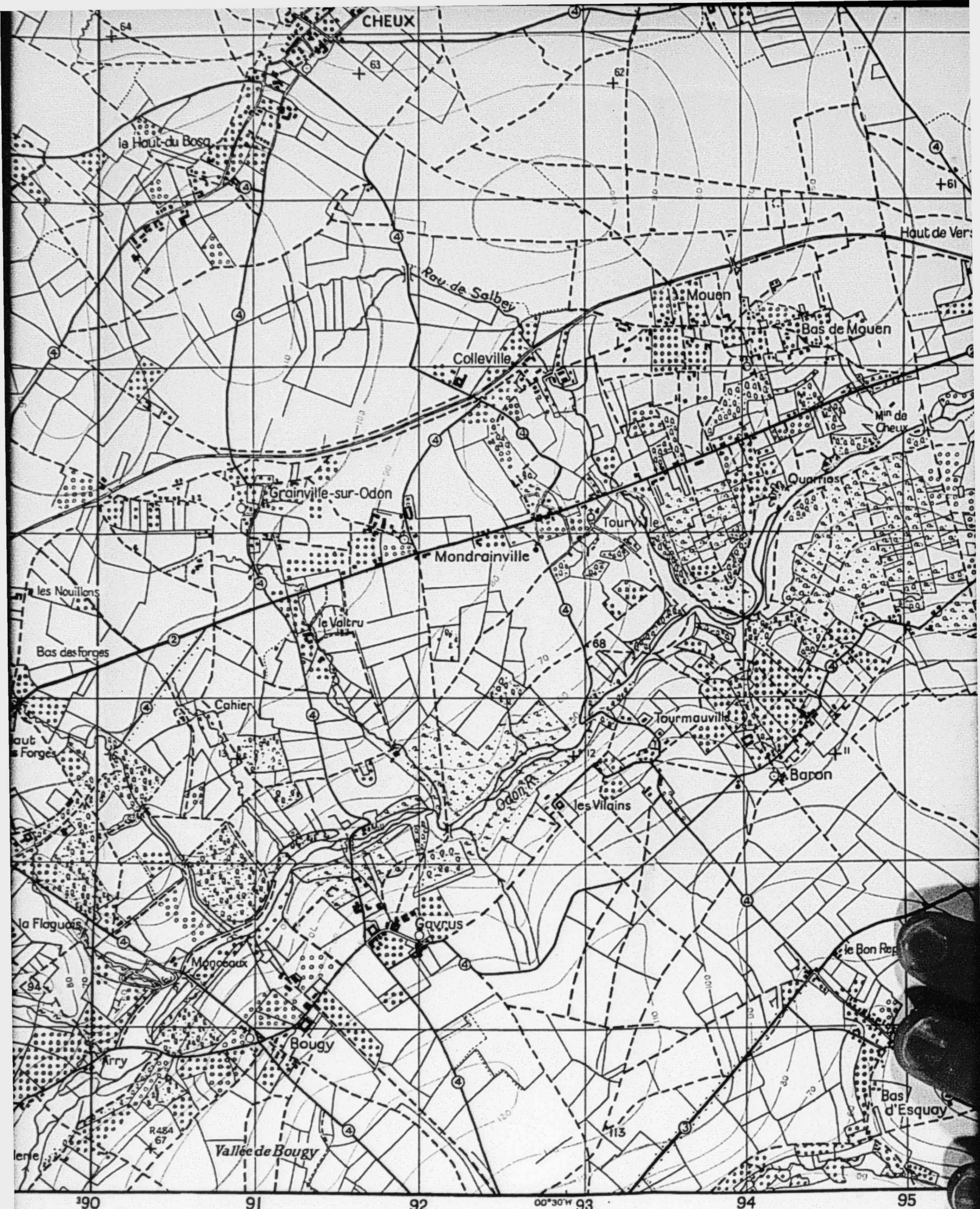
Exhibit "C" - Ferme du Bosq.

- " "D" - Entrance to Regt HQ from EAST.
- " "E" - Entrance to Regt HQ from EAST (farther away).
- " "F" - Interior of Regt HQ.
- " "G" - View showing where STANGENBERG watched interrogation.
- " "H" - View showing where STANGENBERG watched search.
- " "I" - Meadow in front of Regt HQ, showing gap through which prisoners marched to bomb crater.
- " "J" - View showing where STANGENBERG watched shooting.
- " "K" - View showing place where Regt officers watched shooting.
- " "L" - Bomb crater where bodies found.
- " "M" - Third Regt HQ Command Post.
- " "N" - Officers' Mess at third Regt HQ.
- " "O" - Signal centre at third Regt HQ.
- " "P" - Site where Regt Commander's car parked.

CHEUX

Edi





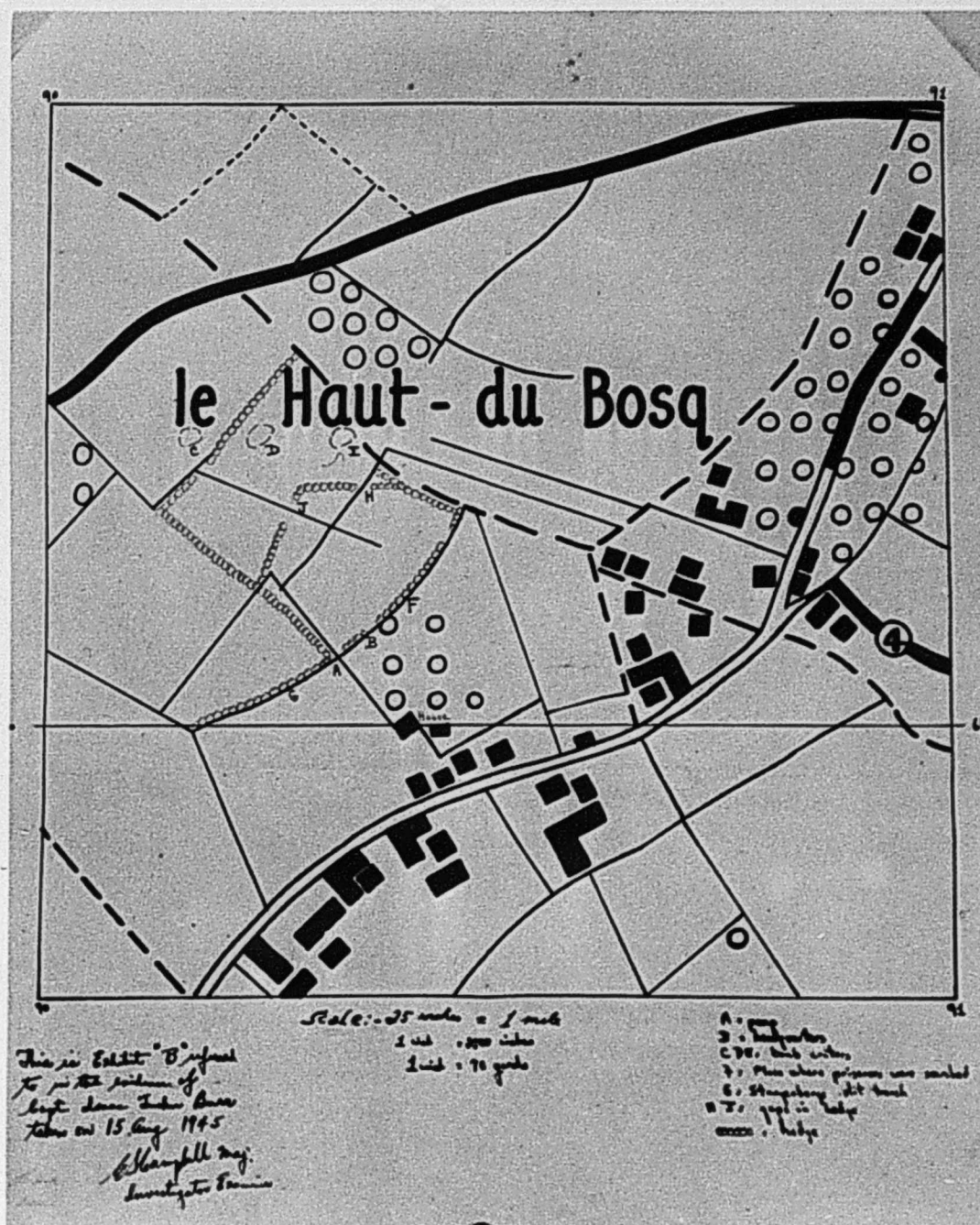
Scale 1:25,000 or 2.53 inches to 1 Mile

Yards 1000 500 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 Yards
Metres 1000 500 0 1000 2000 3000 4000

THE GRID on this sheet is **LAMBERT ZONE I (RED)**
Projection — Lambert (modified) Conical Orthomorphic
Spheroid — Clarke 1880
Origin — 55 Grades N. Meridian of Paris
False Co-ords. of Origin 600,000m.E. 200,000m.N.
Scale Factor — 8151.6 / 8152.6
Difference in Long. Paris — Greenwich 2°20' 13.95"

NOTES ① Road Classification is based on Michelin and other information not been checked on the ground and its reliability is uncertain.
② Contours are at 10m.V.I. They are interpolated from spot heights and hachures on the French 1:80,000 and amplified from Air Photo Examination. They should be accepted with caution.
③ Principal Points of photographs used in compilation are shown.
④ Trigonometrical points are on a 1:50,000 sheet basis — see

PURE: <https://www.legal-tools.org/doc/c61e4a/>



THIS IS EXHIBIT " B " referred
to in the evidence of Captain
I. T. B U R R.

EXHIBIT NO 5c

THIS IS EXHIBIT " C " referred
to in the evidence of Sturmann
Withold S T A L G E N B E R G



EXHIBIT NO. 5 F



THIS IS EXHIBIT "F" referred
to in the evidence of Sturman
Sithold STANLEY BING





5x

THIS IS ROBERT J. K. referred
to in the evidence of Starnann
Nitsold N.T. 10/10/1946



EXHIBIT NO 5 N



to be used as evidence of ...
with ...

